



IRREVERENT

WRITTEN BY HUDSON COSGROVE-NAFTAL

DR. PHILLIPS CENTER

UCF BLACK BOX

April 9th 18th-21st UCF CELEBRATES & ARTS '24

IRREVERENT!

Written by Hudson Cosgrove-Naftal

Alexis & Jim Pugh Theatre April 9th, 2024 at 7:00pm

<u>Theatre UCF Blackbox</u> April 18th-21st, 2024 at 7:30pm

CREATIVE/PRODUCTION TEAM

Playwright: Hudson Cosgrove-Naftal*

> Director: **Tyler Simons***

Assistant Director: Linsday Goldman*

Stage Manager: Jonas Winter*

Costume Designer: Caleb Jones*

Assistant Costume Designer: TABBY Dennis*

> Puppet Designer: **Sophia Debora***

Assistant Stage Manager: **Amber Wheeler***

REHEARSAL ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS: Taylor Appleford* & Lila McMorris*

*THEATRE UCF STUDENT

Sound Designer: **Kate Jeffcott***

Lighting Designer: Emily Duncanson*

LIGHTING PROGRAMMERS: REYANN EPPS MICHEAL O'BRIEN

> DRAMATURG: CAROLINE HULL*

Technical Director: David Jackson*

> Vocal Coach: Jake Plante*

Set Designer: **Matthew Conte***

Assistant Set Designer: **Sonya Smith-Tembe***

Puppet Fabricator: Taylor Falzarano*

CAST

DINAH HALL: ELLIE DOLAN* MASK: TABITHA SANTILLAN* FRANKIE BRAVO. ROMA ZIZZA* EMMETT WATERFORD: JACK EAGLE RITA SANCHEZ: NICOLE EHRILCH* MR. BROWN: CHRISTIAN POLASTRY* AIDEN / U/S FRANKIE: WYATT HUBBARD JAYDEN / U/S DINAH: ALYSSA VINCENT* HAYDEN / U/S MR. BROWN: KYLE MACHANDE* RAVEN / U/S RITA: DANIELA FRAILAN DIAZ* BRADEN / U/S EMMETT: LUKE GRYZBOWSKI* MOM / TEACHER / U/S MASK: ANGELINA DUBOIS HAND / U/S MOM/TEACHER: SAMANTHA KALISH* SOCK: KAIT LOUGHRAN* FINGER: TAYLOR BROWN* SWING: SLIGHTLY SHOEMAKER

***THEATRE UCF STUDENT**



Ellie Dolan DINAH HALL

Wvatt Hubbard

AIDEN

U/S FRANKIE



Tabitha Santillan MASK



Alyssa Vincent JAYDEN U/S DINAH



Samantha Kalish HAND U/S MOM/TEACHER



Roma Zizza FRANKIE BRAVO EMMETT WATERFORD



Kyle Machande HAYDEN U/S MR. BROWN



Kait Loughran SOCK



Daniela Frailan Diaz Luke Gryzbowski RAVEN U/S RITA



Taylor Brown FINGER



Nicole Ehrilch RITA SANCHEZ



BRADEN U/S EMMETT



Slightly Shoemaker SWING



Christian Polastry MR. BROWN



Angelina DuBois MOM / TEACHER U/S MASK





Project Spotlight Spring 2024 Officers

FACULTY ADVISORS:

Belinda Boyd & John Shafer

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

PRODUCTION MANAGER:

HILARY PARDEY-HERNANDEZ

CAROLINE HULL

LEADERSHIP TRAINEES: LINDSAY GOLDMAN & ANGELINA DUBOIS

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER:

Hudson Cosgrove-Naftal

FRONT OF HOUSE ASSISTANT: EMMA JOHNSON

HEAD OF OUTREACH & EVENTS:

Mackenzie Smith

OUTREACH & EVENTS TEAM: ROMA ZIZZA & SOFIA GONZALEZ

HEAD OF DEI TEAM:

Jaya Wilson

DEI TEAM: IZZY ELLIS & DAWSON TRAN

M. LIGHT TECHNICIAN

Emily Duncanson

M. SOUND TECHNICIAN

Olivia Skvarenina

LIGHTING TECHNICIANS: MICHAEL O'BRIEN & REYANN EPPS

MEDIA PRODUCER:

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER:

CASEY BERKERY

Tabitha Santillan

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM: JACOB SMITH & SHIRA GARBER

HEAD OF DRAMATURGY:

Kenara Brown

HEAD OF PLAYWRITING CLUB: BENNETT SILVERGATE

Who's Who in the Cast

Ellie Dolan (Dinah) is a first-year transfer in the BFA Acting program. This production marks her Project Spotlight debut! Other theatre credits include Theatre UCF's Peter and the Starcatcher (U/S Molly), Disney's Frozen (Anna), Legally Blonde the Musical (Paulette), and Disney's The Little Mermaid (Ursula). She also works as a children's theatre teacher. She is so grateful for this show and cannot wait for people to see it!

Tabitha Santillan (Mask) is so excited to be involved in the Project Spotlight full length production! She is so grateful for this process and can't wait for everyone else to see it. Her past credits include Race to Infinity (Sara), Anything Goes (Erma) and Belladonna the Musical (Anna). She plans to continue performing and telling important stories. She wants to thank her family, friends, and mentors for their never-ending support.

Roma Zizza (Frankie Bravo) is a second year transfer BA Theatre Studies student with a Creative Writing minor. Their recent credits include Theatre UCF's Metamorphoses (Actor 2) and Project Spotlight's Race to Infinity (Deborah), which performed at UCF Celebrates the Arts in 2023.

JACK EAGLE (EMMETT WATERFORD) IS IN HIS FIRST YEAR AT UCF MAJORING IN PSYCHOLOGY. HE HAS BEEN DOING THEATRE SINCE HIGH SCHOOL AND FEELS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON. HIS PERSONAL HEROES INCLUDE MARIE CURIE AND ULYSSES S GRANT.

NICOLE EHRLICH (RITA SANCHEZ) IS A FIRST YEAR TRANSFER STUDENT IN THE BA THEATRE STUDIES PROGRAM. SHE IS SO FORTUNATE TO BE INVOLVED IN HER FIRST PRODUCTION WITH PROJECT SPOTLIGHT. HER PAST CREDITS INCLUDE SHE KILLS MONSTERS (KALIOPE), EURYDICE (BIG STONE), HAIR (JEANNIE), AND MUCH MORE. SHE IS SO PROUD TO MAKE HER UNIVERSITY DEBUT AND WANTS TO THANK HER FAMILY AND PROFESSORS FOR THEIR ENDLESS SUPPORT. INSTAGRAM: @NICEHRLICH

Christian Polastry (Mr.Brown) is a second-year Acting BFA student. He's been in Theatre UCF's production of The Interference, The Resistible Rise of Arturo UI, and Project Spotlight's Race to Infinity (Arturo Delgado). While attending Broward College, Christian was seen in Luz and Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime (Roger). In Addition to Theatre, he plans to pursue a career in Film/TV and Voiceover.

Wyatt Hubbard (Aiden, U/S Frankie Bravo) is a first year transfer student at UCF. He's been performing for as long as he can remember and is beyond excited to be performing in his third project spotlight show. He is also beyond excited to be performing for the first time here at the Dr. Phillips Center!

Alyssa Vincent (Jaedyn, U/S Dinah) is a 3rd year in the BFA Acting program. She was recently seen in UCF's Pegasus Playlab summertime: an interlude. When not on stage, she is also involved in the production electrician and lighting side of theatre. She loves reading, filming movies and playing video games. Telling stories that reflect real life are really important to her so thank you so much for coming to this amazing show! @alrvincent

Who's Who in the Cast

Kyle Machande (Hayden, U/S Mr. Brown) is a junior in the B.A. Theatre Studies program. He was last seen on the Theatre UCF stage in The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui (Goodwill/Fish/Ensemble). Previous theatre credits include Affinity Lunch Minutes (Cal) and summertime: An Interlude (U/S David) as part of Pegasus PlayLab and Random Encounters (Crush) with Playmore Theatre Company. He has also acted extensively with Project Spotlight. Instagram: @kylemachande

Daniela Frailan Diaz (Raven, U/S Rita Sanchez) is a first year student. She is very excited to be involved in her second production with Project Spotlight. She is very proud of her last project spotlight production, The Notebook, But With a Cuban Accent (Abuela Clara). She wants to thank her family and dedicates her performance in this show to her dad. Instagram: @danivalen_07

Luke Grzybowski (Braden, U/S Emmett Waterford) is a first year student in the BFA Acting program. He is overjoyed to be performing in his third production with Project Spotlight. He has run out of things to say and hopes you enjoy the show!

Angelina DuBois (Mom/Teacher, U/S Mask) is an incoming first-year BFA Acting student at UCF. She has recently been seen in Ghostwriter (Jamie/Elizabeth) and assistant directed Honestly? for Project Spotlight.

Samantha Kalish (Hand, U/S Mom/Teacher) is ecstatic to be in Irreverent! Favorite previous credits: I'm Happy (Veronica), Race to Infinity (U/S Kitty), The Drowsy Chaperone (Janet), and Les Miserables (Eponine).

Kait (Kaitlyn) Loughran (Sock) is BFA Acting major at UCF. You might have seen her in former Project Spotlight shows, Manor of Death (The Collector) also by Hudson Cosgrove-Naftal, and Teacher's Pet (Robin) by Paul Pelletier Jr. She just closed another show for this year's Project Spotlight One Act Festival at UCF, Win or Lose (The Composer) by Joshua Kerr. She loves poetry and art in all forms, as well as spending time in nature.

Taylor Brown (Finger) is a 3rd year BA theater studies student. She is thrilled to be apart of this year's Celebrates the Arts show. She has been previously seen as The Nutcracker (Herr Drosselmeyer), Que Sera (Swing), and Manor of Death (The Butler).

Slightly Shoemaker (Swing) is a freshman at UCF, majoring in Entertainment Management and Theatre Studies. They are thrilled to be in their third show with Project Spotlight! Some of their favorite past roles include Puffs (Leanne), Mean Girls (Cady Heron), and Monster Island (Kree Ture). They are so excited to take on their first Project Spotlight full length, and want to thank their amazing family and friends for all their love and support! Instagram: @slightle.shoe



Hudson Cosgrove-Naftal (Playwright) is a Psychology and English double major graduating this summer. This is the first time one of Hudson's full-length plays hits the stage, and she is honored to have her words performed on a Dr. Phillips Center stage! Previous playwrighting credits include Manor of Death (Project Spotlight and The Orlando Fringe Festival), Team Spirit (Project Spotlight), and Que Sera (Project Spotlight). She wants to thank her moms for always supporting her whims and her friends and family for always showing up to laugh at her jokes. She hopes you enjoy the show! Instagram: @hudson_cn12



Tyler "Ty" Simons (Director) is a KCACTF Region IV award-winning Director and first-year MFA TYA candidate with a B.A in Theatre Studies and a minor in Education, he is super excited to be sharing this necessary story with you all today! None of this would have been possible without the incredible cast, creative and technical team. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. His previous credits include: Regional Theatre; A Christmas Carol (Assistant Director, Orlando Shakes), The Facts Are As Follows (Dramaturg, Orlando Shakes), Theatre UCF: Working (Assistant Director), Affinity Lunch Minutes (Assistant Director). Upcoming works include: Dance Night (Associate Director) as part of Pegasus Playlab at UCF and Rhinoceros (Associate Director) as part of Theatre UCF 2024-25 season! Thank you, Ma, Dad, and my big past, present and future theatre family none of this would have been possible without you all. MAKE ART NOT WAR! @Tylersiimons



Lindsay Goldman (Assitant Director) is elated to be making her UCF Celebrates the Arts debut this semester! She has been involved with Project Spotlight for a year and a half and will go on to serve as the Artistic Director this upcoming 2024-25 school year. Most recently, Lindsay has directed the fall 2023 one act "Que Sera" and played Adult Emily in the 15-Minute Musical "Dive In." She would like to thank her parents, for their endless support and Project Spotlight for all of the Amazing Opportunities in the past year and half. @Lindsaygoldman_



Jonas Winter (Production Stage Manager/ Props Manager) is a first year transfer student in the BFA Stage Management program and this is his first Project Spotlight production! Previous credits include Metamorphoses at UCF (Production Assistant), and Water By The Spoonful at Rollins College (Assistant Stage Manager). Instagram: @_just.jonas



Caleb Asher Jones (Costume Designer) is a second year transfer student in the BFA Theatre Design and Technology program. Some of his past costume design roles include Bite Me, Monster Island, and The Notebook but with a Cuban Accent. Instagram: @calebasherjones



TABBY DENNIS (Assistant Costume Designer) is so happy that Irreverent! is Their first production with Project Spotlight and they're so grateful to be working on this show! Working with the lead costumer and the rest of the cast and crew has been an absolute delight, and they can't wait to see everyone's hard work pay off!



Amber Wheeler (Assistant Stage Manager) is a third year UCF student double majoring in BA Theatre Studies and Accounting. She is so happy to be an assistant stage manager for her first production with Project Spotlight. She has learned so much about stage management during the process of the show and is thankful for this opportunity! Instagram @Authenticamber



Kate Jeffcott (Sound Designer)IS a composer and sound designer specializing in the creepy and whimsical. Her credits include 'Summertime: an interlude' (Sound designer), 'The Cherry Orchard' (Associate Sound Designer), 'Frankenstein' (Sound Designer), 'The Prom' (A2), and 'Sweeny Todd' (A2)



LILA MCMORRIS (REHEARSAL ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) IS A FIRST YEAR IN THE BFA STAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THIS IS HER FIRST TIME WORKING WITH PROJECT SPOTLIGHT AND IT HAS MADE HER WANT TO DO MORE WITH THEM IN THE FUTURE. THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN SUPER FUN AND SHE CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE PEOPLE FINALLY SEE THE SHOW.



Taylor Appleford (Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager) is a first year BFA Stage Management student. This is her first show working alongside Project Spotlight and she is excited for what's to come.



Emily Duncanson (Lighting Designer) is in her third year at UCF studying theatre. She has worked as our Master Lighting Technician for the past 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons. She is excited to continue her role in brightening up our shows this season!



Reyann "Rey" Epps (Lighting Programmer) is a 2nd year transfer in the design and technology BFA with a focus in lighting design. This is her 2nd year working with Project Spotlight. She has also worked on Race to Infinity (Board Op), The Notebook, but with a Cuban Accent (Lighting Designer), and most recently Win or Lose (Lighting Designer). Instagram: @Lightingbyrey



Sonya Smith-Tembe (Assistant Set Designer) is a Junior in the BFA Design & Technology program. Her work has been seen on the Theatre UCF stage in Chicken & Biscuits (Co-Set Designer), The Cherry Orchard (Paint Charge), As You Like It (Assistant Paint Charge) and Bright Star (Props Artisan)



CAROLINE HULL (DRAMATURG) IS A SECOND-YEAR THEATRE MA CANDIDATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA WITH AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN THEATRE STUDIES AND ENGLISH (CREATIVE WRITING), SPECIALIZING IN PLAYWRITING AND DRAMATURGICAL RESEARCH. HER MOST RECENT TEN-MINUTE PLAY, FOUL LINES, RECEIVED BOTH THE CITIZEN ARTIST AWARD AND RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE FOR PLAYWRITING IN THE SHORT FORM AT KCACTF REGION IV IN 2023. CAROLINE'S DRAMATURGICAL WORK ON UCF'S MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION OF THE INTERFERENCE EARNED HER SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AT KCACTF REGION IV 2023. SHE IS A PROUD ADVOCATE FOR THE AWARENESS OF INVISIBLE DISABILITIES AND AIMS FOR A WORLD WITH A MORE AUTHENTIC, WIDESPREAD REPRESENTATION OF CHRONIC ILLNESS AND DISABILITY IN THEATRE.

MATTHEW CONTE (SET DESIGNER) IS A SCENIC DESIGNER BASED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO A CAREER IN SCENIC DESIGN FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, THEATRE, AND LIVE PERFORMANCE. HIS DESIGN CREDITS INCLUDE CO-SET DESIGN DIRECTOR FOR STRIKE MAGAZINE ORLANDO AND ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA PRODUCTION OF METAMORPHOSES, IMPLEMENTING THE USE OF WATER ON STAGE. HE WAS ALSO ONE OF THE SCENIC AND PROJECTION DESIGNERS FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF RACE TO INFINITY AT THE DR. PHILLIPS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, A PLAY REFLECTING THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF SEXUALITY AND LATINX BACKGROUNDS IN AMERICA. MATTHEW USES HIS EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING IN THEATRE TO FURTHER INVEST IN HIS COMMUNITY, HAVING CREATED FUNDRAISERS SUPPORTING METRO HEALTH TAMPA BAY, ST. JUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, AND THE TREVOR PROJECT. HE IS CURRENTLY COMPLETING HIS BFA IN THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA WITH A MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY.



Sophia Debora (Puppet Designer) is excited to be working with Project Spotlight for the first time. This is also Sophia's first time designing and fabricating puppets for a specific show. Previously she was Assistant Scenic Designer for The Cherry Orchard and Paint Charge for Metamorphosis through theater UCF. She is a fourth-year Theatre Design and Technology Student.



Taylor Falzarano (Puppet Fabricator) (they/she) is a first year transfer Design and Technology student, who is ecstatic to be on puppet building crew for Irreverent! Other Project Spotlight credits include Stage Manager for Monster Island. Theatre UCF credits include Programmer/light board op for Metamorphoses, as well as being in the Eshop crew for the spring semester. She would like to thank Vandy for this opportunity, her family for their love and support, as well as their partner AND dear friends.



JACKSON DAVID (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) IS A DEVOTED THEATRE TECHNICIAN EXCITED TO TRAVEL WITH BROADWAY TOURS. HE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT BRINGING HIGH QUALITY SHOWS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WHILE ACHIEVING HIS FINE ARTS DEGREE IN THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, HE HAS SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS IN THE SHOPS DIRECTLY ASSISTING THE TD AND STAFF ELECTRICIAN. JACKSON IS HONORED TO HAVE BEEN LEAD CARPENTER AND PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN FOR UCF PRODUCTIONS. HE HAS UTILIZED HIS CREATIVE CARPENTRY SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN THEATERS OUTSIDE OF UCF BY DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING SIMPLE BUT BRILLIANT SETS UNDER LOW BUDGETS

<u>Theatre UCF Production Staff, Faculty, and</u> <u>Advisors</u>

Director of the School and Performing Arts: **Michael** Wainstein

THEATRE UCF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: JULIA LISTENGARTEN DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION: BERT SCOTT UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATOR: KRISTINA TOLLEFSON Faculty Stage Management Advisor: Claudia Lynch FACULTY DESIGNER/ADVISOR: VANDY WOOD Faculty Dramaturg/Advisor: Chloë Edmonson FACULTY MUSIC DIRECTOR: **RICHARD CRAWLEY** Faculty Vocal Coach: **Vivian Majkowski** MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: MCKENZIE LAKEY MARKETING COORDINATOR: JESSICA COMPTON BOX OFFICE MANAGER: IMARI POINT-DU-JOUR Assistant Box Office Manager: Sami Ramsammy PRODUCTION MANAGER: JAMES CLEVELAND TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: TRAMAINE BERRYHILL ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: KRISTEN GARZA PRODUCTION SOUND/ADVISOR: CASEY DEITER **PRODUCTION SOUND ASSISTANT: NICK ERICKSON** PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN: BETH MCASHAN GUEST ARTIST PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN: LIZZ PITSLEY COSTUME SHOP MANAGER: ALLISON REXRODE COSTUME WORKROOM SUPERVISOR: AMANDA ROBERTS Theatre UCF Artistic Associate: Cory Kennedy Barrow*

A Note from the Dramaturg

DRAMATURG - A BEHIND-THE-SCENES RESOURCE FOR DIRECTORS, ACTORS, AND PLAYWRIGHTS, PROVIDING CONTEXT, RESEARCH, AND FEEDBACK TO HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OR ACCURACY OF A PRODUCTION.

"To be one's self, and unafraid whether right or wrong, is more admirable than the easy cowardice of surrender to conformity."

- IRVING WALLACE

We can all remember the universal struggle of self-acceptance versus fitting in that takes place in the heart of bustling high schools worldwide, where cliques and compliance reign supreme. As we navigate the labyrinth of teenage life, we discover that actual growth lies not in conformity but in embracing our unique selves. The characters in Irreverent represent countless individuals who have felt the pressure to mold themselves into a predetermined shape to gain acceptance.

HIGH SCHOOL IS MORE THAN JUST TEXTBOOKS AND LOCKERS—IT'S A CRUCIBLE WHERE IDENTITIES ARE FORGED. IN THIS MICROCOSM OF SOCIETY, CHARACTERS CONFRONT THEIR FEARS, INSECURITIES, AND DESIRES. THEY STUMBLE, FALL, AND RISE AGAIN, DISCOVERING THEIR STRENGTHS AND VULNERABILITIES. IRREVERENT CELEBRATES ADOLESCENCE'S MESSY, TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY—A TIME WHEN WE SHED OLD SKIN AND EMERGE AS OUR MOST AUTHENTIC SELVES. AS YOU SETTLE INTO YOUR SEATS, WE INVITE YOU TO STEP INTO THE SHOES OF OUR CHARACTERS. FEEL THE WEIGHT OF CONFORMITY, THE EXHILARATION OF SELF-DISCOVERY, AND THE WARMTH OF ACCEPTANCE. LET THEIR STORIES RESONATE WITHIN YOU. IRREVERENT ISN'T JUST ABOUT A HIGH SCHOOL ELECTION—IT'S ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION. BY WITNESSING THEIR STRUGGLES, WE HOPE YOU'LL REFLECT ON YOUR OWN JOURNEY AND EMBRACE THE UNIQUENESS THAT MAKES YOU, WELL, YOU.

- CAROLINE HULL, DRAMATURG

A Note From the Playwright

DID YOU KNOW THAT WOMEN ALL OVER THE WORLD GO WITHOUT AUTISM DIAGNOSES BECAUSE THEY ARE BETTER AT CAMOUFLAGING AUTISTIC CHARACTERISTICS? THIS WAS MY CASE, AS I DID NOT RECEIVE AN AUTISM DIAGNOSIS UNTIL STARTING MY COLLEGE CAREER. ALL OF THE PUZZLE PIECES BEGAN TO FALL INTO PLACE, MY OBSESSIVE BEHAVIORS IN CHILDHOOD MADE SENSE, AND I FINALLY REALIZED I WASN'T AN ALIEN PARADING AROUND IN HUMAN SKIN. THIS PLAY WAS INSPIRED BY THE DESIRE TO BLEND INTO THE BACKGROUND, TO WEAR A MASK FOR PROTECTION FROM NEUROTYPICAL PEOPLE THAT I FELT I NEEDED FOR MOST OF MY LIFE.

I CAN'T WRITE THIS NOTE WITHOUT FIRST ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMMENSE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE THIS OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN. BACK WHEN I FIRST STARTED WRITING PLAYS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT MY WORDS WOULD COME TO LIFE ON THE DR. PHILLIP'S CENTER STAGE. THIS STORY IS VERY CLOSE TO MY HEART, AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT THAT HAS COME TO ME FROM ALL DIRECTIONS THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS.

-Hudson Cosgrove-Naftal, Playwright

A Note From the Director

"Replace judgment with curiosity" - Lynn Nottage

In the realm of theatre, we often encounter narratives through our own biases, yet I am drawn to creating art that not only challenges our perceptions but encourages us to dream of a better world. Irreverent embodies the essence of theatre—transforming the chaos of human experience into poignant, passionate stories. It mirrors our collective journey, touching on themes of isolation, while celebrating the innate human drive to share stories that foster empathy, judgment, and a deeper connection with others. This project is a testament to the power of storytelling in amplifying compassion, education, and connection beyond the superficial.

At the heart of my direction are three guiding questions: Why is this story essential? How does it resonate with our community? And how can we do it justice? These inquiries not only deepen my understanding of the work but also underscore the importance of engaging in meaningful dialogues that highlight diversity, ambiguity, and the inherent beauty of conflict.

IRREVERENT STANDS AS A BEACON IN TODAY'S WORLD, ADVOCATING FOR INDIVIDUALITY AND SELF-EXPRESSION IN THE FACE OF SOCIETAL NORMS. MY APPROACH IS DRIVEN BY A DESIRE TO ENACT CHANGE, NOT JUST THROUGH WORDS, BUT THROUGH MEANINGFUL ACTION. THIS FOSTERS ART THAT TRANSCENDS TRADITIONAL THEATRICAL BOUNDARIES, ADVOCATING FOR STORIES THAT NEED TO BE TOLD NOW, MORE THAN EVER.

Furthermore. I express my purpose as being a catalyst, a person that brings ATTENTION TO ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE THEATRE COMMUNITY BUT ALSO being a human genuinely concerned with the decaying care for each other. The PURPOSE OF WHY I DO THEATRE IS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER. PEOPLE OF ALL DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES TO HAVE A SHARED EXPERIENCE THAT WILL CREATE connection and conversation. These conversations are at the core of what I find to be the most important part of the work I do. I express wholeheartedly that if Someone can leave a piece I directed and talk about it to grow their knowledge. even if it makes them uncomfortable. My work was successful. This feeling of DISCOMFORT PROPELS MY APPROACH TO DIRECTING, WHICH IS TO PRESENT A FORM OF THEATRE THAT MAY MAKE SOME FEEL LIKE THEIR CHAIR IS ON FIRE, AND FOR THE UNDERREPRESENTED PEOPLE TO FIND RELATABILITY. IT IS THIS OVERWHELMING FEELING TO CREATE A SPACE THAT PROVIDES SAFETY FOR ALL BUT MAINLY FOR THE IMPORTANCE TO RAISE AWARENESS TO THE MAJORITY AND MAKE THEM QUESTION THEIR PERSPECTIVES ON HOW THE MINORITIES IN THIS COUNTRY EXPERIENCE LIFE. -Tyler "Ty" Simons. Director